the Trade Fair Authority of India proposes to organise more specialised commodity fairs at Pragati Maidan and give them International character. In addition, the Trade Fair Auhthority of India is exploring possibilities of organising international fairs in other industrial centres in India starting with an India International Leather Fair at Madras in January-February, 1986.

Export to the Soviet Union

97. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of items exported to the Soviet Union during the year 1984-85 and what are the total foreign exchange earnings from such exports;

(b) what are the names of items imported from the Soviet Union during the above period and the amount spent thereon; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to ensure a favourable balance of trade position in regard to the trade with the Soviet Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The Trade Agreement between India and USSR provides for the conduct of trade between the two countries on a bilateral and balanced basis.

The items being exported from India and USSR during the year 1985 include Agricultural products, Minerals and Ores, Chemicals and Allied Products, Leather and Leather Manufactures, Textile goods and Engineering Products. As per the provisional assessment, exports to the USSR for the first three quarter of the year 1984-85 (April, 1984—December, 1984) are of the order of Rs. 1125.28 crores.

The Indian imports from Soviet Union consists of Machinery Equipment, Spare Parts, Crude Oil and Petroleum Products, Chemicals and Pharamaceutical Products, Steel Products, Non-ferrous Metals etc. Indian imports from the USSR during the period of April, 1984 to December, 1984 amount to Rs. 1236.19 crores provisionally.

Tax on Agricultural income

98. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring farm income under direct taxation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to tap agricultural income for enhancing the financial resources during the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Taxes on agricultural income fall under entry 46 of List II—State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Taxation of agricultural income, therefore, falls within the jurisdiction of the State Legislatures. Hence, action in this regard will have to be taken by the State Governments.

Order Placed with a U. K. firm for Production of Small Coins

99. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a company in Birmingham in England has been entrusted with the production of small coins for India; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for entering into a contract with a foreign company for the production of small coins?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Order have been placed on M|s. Birmingham Mint Products Ltd. U.K. for import of 500 million pieces of Re. 1 coins as part of Government's decision to import 2000 million pieces of coins.

(b) There is a gap between demand and supply of coins. Government have taken several steps to increase production in the existing 3 Mints at Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad. As a result of these steps, production has substantially increased from 525.17 million pieces in 1981-82 to 1355.69 million pieces in 1984-85. Target for 1985-86 has been fixed at 2000 million pieces as against the RBI's demand of 2600 million pieces during the year. However, due to capacity constraints, it is not possible to increase production in the existing mints. A Second Shift has been introduced in the Calcutta Mint with effect from 25-2-1985. As a long term measure, Government have decided to set-up a new Mint at NOIDA and steps are being taken to implement this decision. To meet the immediate shortage of coins, it has been decided to import 2000 million pieces of coins.

Reconcilling of Unreconciled amount in the State Bank of India

100. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI S. W. DHABE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a time-limit for reconciling the unreconciled amount in the State Bank of India;

(b) if so, whether the said time-limit is being followed by the State Bank of India management; and

(c) if not, what steps Government have taken to protect the interest of the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The State Bank of India has reported that although there is no time-limit for reconciliation of inter-branch transactions, its endeavour has been to reduce time lag to the minimum. As at the end of May 1985, the bank had reconciled 98.5 per cent of the entries. Efforts are being made to improve the position further. The progress in reconciliation is monitored by the top management.

Balancing of different categories of books, which also has a bearing on depositors' interests, is done in State Bank of India according to a calendar of balancing. Broadly speaking, these schedules are being observed by the branches. Wherever there are arrears, special efforts are made to secure concentrated attention and efforts to eradicate them. As at the end of 30-6-1985, the bank had some unreconciled accounts at 495 out of its 7200 branches. Every effort is being made to reconcile these by December, 1985.

Rise in the price Index

101. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of rise in the price index of wholesale consumer articles during the month of May, 1985 as compared to that of May 1984; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to contain the process so as to check the inflationary trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Variations in wholesale price indices of selected consu-